

Clark County Veteran's Advisory Board

Clark County Public Service Center
1300 Franklin St, 6th Floor, Ste. #679
Vancouver, Washington
April 9th, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Chair: Morris Giesler

Vice Chair: Greg Whitson

Secretary: Mike Gibson

Meeting Called to order by Mike Gibson @ 1400

Roll Call: [Bold script indicates presence at meeting]

POST

40 et 8
American Legion #14
American Legion #27
American Legion #44
American Legion #168
American Legion #176
American Legion #189
American Legion #208
American Veterans #6
DAV Chapter #4
Korean War Vet Assoc #321
Marine Corps League #826
VFW #4278
VFW #7824
VFW #12028
Vietnam Vets #512

PRIMARY

Morris Giesler
Dixie Hotaling

Robert Nichols
Michael Gibson

Richard Alvarez
Frank Hyatt
Thomas Dombeck
Lou Basté
John Raynor
Roy Billings
Skip Bengé
Greg Whitson

ALTERNATE

Jerry Keen
James Resleff

Richard Langenbach
Jonathan Frederick

Benjamin Long
Thomas Kula
Robert Sumrill
Ron Brandon
Stephen Stetson
Bruce Maas

Joseph Fettig

Members at Large

Kevin Lawson

CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Samantha Whitley

GUESTS

Colleen Kuhn - HSC; Tim McPharlin – Clark College Vet's Center; John Russell; Melanie Denno; David Moore – Council for the Homeless; Regina Rizo and Karin Marasco HUD-VASH Social Workers

March 12, 2014 Meeting Minute

Bob Nichols moved to approve the March minutes as written, Jerry Keen seconded and passed.

Veterans Supportive Housing Update

Regina Rizo and Karin Marasco presented information about the HUD-VASH Housing program at the VA. They get out funding from HUD and are designated a certain number of vouchers each year to help veterans pay for their housing. They did not know the number of vouchers in Clark County but they still had some availability for new clients. There is a Housing Walk-In intake at the VA from 10 to 3 on Mondays and Thursdays.

There are a lot of barriers for veterans seeking housing, including finding landlords who are willing to work with the program and finding financial resources for deposits. Once clients are housed the case managers get treatment plans, and keep them involved with needed services. To enroll in HUD-VASH a veteran is given an assessment to determine their risk level for homelessness, children, and other factors. The veteran must have an honorable or general discharge and be enrolled in VA healthcare.

CCVAC Contract

Bob Nichols said that the Veterans Assistance Center met today and approved the contract but there will be some minor changes because of policy and a few other things. The contract should be fully signed by May. Sam clarified that some of the minor changes included adding the program contact and financial contact to the first page, changing administrative staff from .5 FTE to .6 FTE because they will work a total of 22.5 hours per week. **Jerry Keen made a motion to approve contract between Clark County and CCVAC, Dixie Hotaling seconded, motion approved.**

Community Reports

No appeals.

The Chair of the Policies and Procedures Committee, Tom Dombek presented the changes agreed upon by the committee.

There were several questions about "State of Induction" and that will be changed to "Home of Record" for residency documentation. Sam also asked about late fees for utility assistance or prescription assistance, "the period of time that LIHEAP is available," allowing 180 day passes, vs. 3 monthly passes under transportation and utility assistance maximums. There was also discussion about removing the requirement to have a licensed mechanic and changing the appeals period to 45 days. The Committee agreed to take the discussion into consideration and revise the policies again to be presented at the May meeting.

Sam handed out a memo regarding the current veteran's dental program. Medicaid provides dental care to those earning up to 138% of poverty line. Since the Veterans Fund serves those up to 150% of poverty, there is not much of a need for dental care not covered by Medicaid. The Free Clinic proposed serving veterans who earn up to 200% of poverty, since that is what their other program currently serve and there is still a need for those not qualified for Medicaid but who still can't afford to buy their own health plan. The Free Clinic offered to do all of the eligibility qualifications for veterans with no increase in their contract amount. This new service eligibility would not be able to be changed until the County Code authorized serving those in the dental program only up to 200% of poverty. **Bob Nichols made a motion to approve this change to the dental program, Jerry Keen seconded, motion passed.**

Bob also presented a draft set of changes to the county code that he had worked on. The biggest change was correcting the terms from Veterans Service Officer to County Officer. The code should align with

the Policy and Procedures as well as the Constitution and Bylaws, which may have some changes too.

Contract Reports

Sam – In February, the numbers were down to only 33 veterans served because of moving the Service Officer and a week of snow. A total of \$9,297 was provided in services, there were 6 denials because of income and no appeals. VAC saw 162 Vets and 508 volunteer hours with a total of \$11,655. The Free Clinic saw 10 veterans, providing 3 extractions, 1 filling and one restoration, 24 x-rays. The value of service was \$2,353 and the fund was billed only \$1,550. The revenue and expense report shows a balance of 434, 508 dollars but does not reflect the Human Service Council billings for January and February which will be added to the report once the invoices are processed. HSC billed \$30K in January and \$16K in February. First half property taxes are due in April.

Old Business:

None

New Business

During the elections at the CCVAC, Joe Fettig was elected as the new President, Frank Hyatt is Vice President, Secretary is Pam Davis, and Treasurer is Allie Mathis.

Good of the Order

Tim McPharlin with the Clark College Veterans Center invited everyone to the ribbon cutting ceremony at Gaiser Hall at 9 AM on May 22nd.

Tom Dombeck shared that there will be an “Our Community Salutes” program to honor senior high school students joining the military at Skyview High School on April 26th.

Meeting adjourned at 1530 hours.

Next meeting: May 14, 2014 @ 1400 hours at NEW LOCATION: Armed Forces Reserve Center